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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                   |   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| In re U.S. Patent Application of: | ) |                            |
| Takashi SHIBUYA, et al.           | : | Examiner: Unassigned       |
| Appln. No.: Unassigned            | ) |                            |
|                                   | : | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
| Filed: September 24, 2003         | ) |                            |
|                                   | : |                            |
| For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS      | ) | September 24, 2003         |

**Mail Stop Patent Application**  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks.